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C O N T E N T S

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SOUTH VIETNAM: Communist troops reoccupy some key base areas. (Page 10)

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SOUTH VIETNAM: The Communists have been quietly reasserting their presence in key former base areas in Military Region III in an apparent effort to secure transportation routes and bring their supply system closer to government-held populated areas. They have now further realigned some of their main force units in the provinces north of Saigon, apparently as part of the general dispersal of such units that was first noted last month. A regiment of the North Vietnamese 9th Division has been detected in the Michelin Rubber Plantation of northwestern Binh Duong Province, the farthest south the unit has been since 1968, when it routinely operated in this area. To the east, elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have been detected along the edges of War Zone D in Long Khanh Province.

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FOR THE RECORD*

Syria-Jordan-Lebanon: In an apparent concession to Jordan, Damascus reportedly is permitting Jordanian merchandise to transit Syrian ports. The merchandise has been backlogged in Beirut by Syria's closure of the border with Lebanon on 9 May. Syria's probable motive, however, is to capture part of Lebanon's lucrative entrepot trade and further damage Beirut's economy.

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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